

A DAY WITH A **FIREFIGHTER**



By Patricia Berry

Illustrated by Bradley Clark

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Book design by Jaye Medalia



Alex is a firefighter, and she is going to work at the firehouse. She hugs her husband and children good-bye. She won't be home again for 24 hours—a whole day!





Alex can walk to the firehouse. It's just a few blocks from her home. She works at Fire Station Three.

When she gets there, she puts her bag in her locker. That is also where she keeps the special gear and clothing she needs when she goes to fight fires.





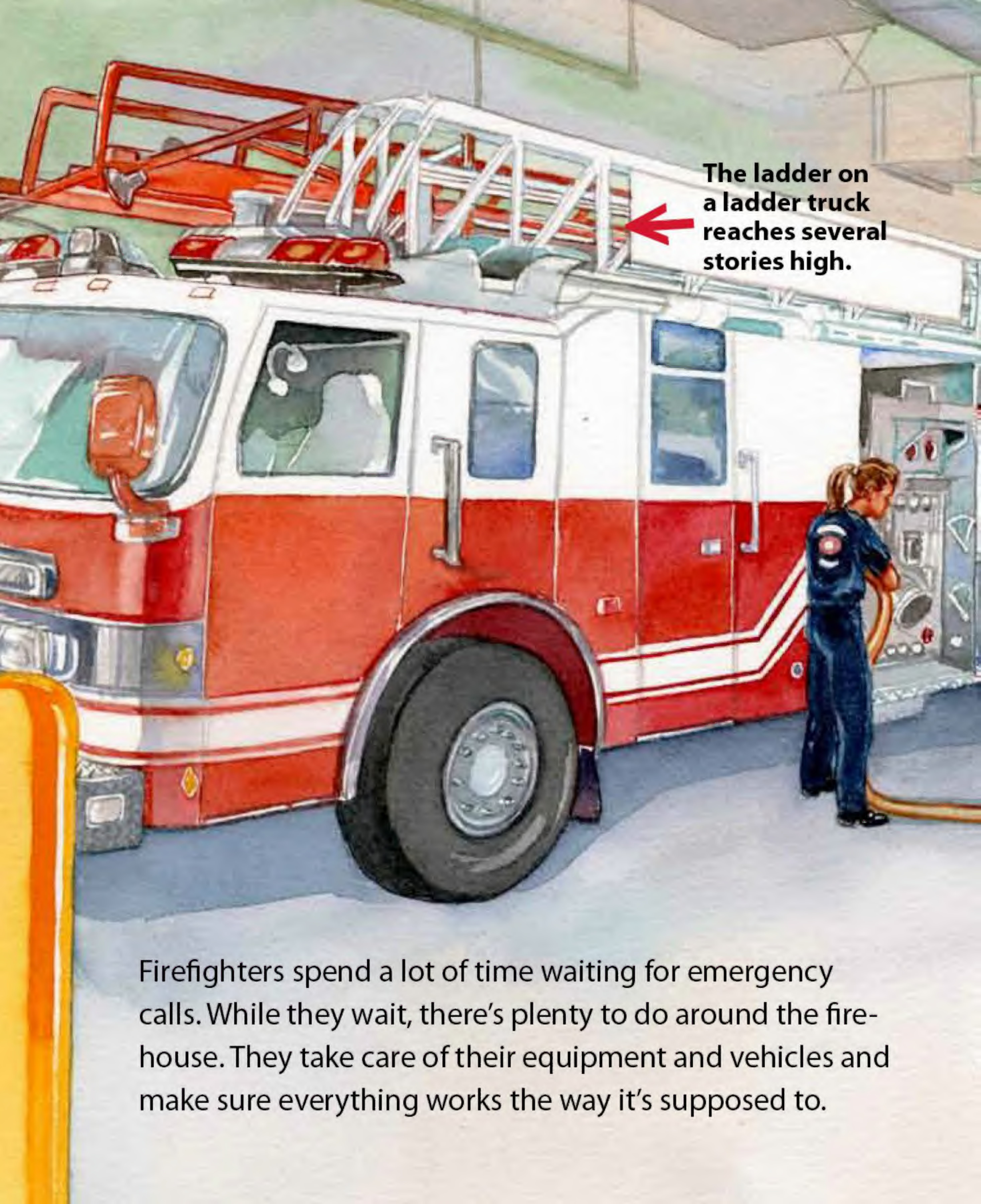
The fire helmet protects Alex's head from heat and falling objects. The visor shields her eyes from smoke. The firehouse number is on the front of her helmet.

The hood goes under her helmet to cover her head and neck.

 **Rubber boots**

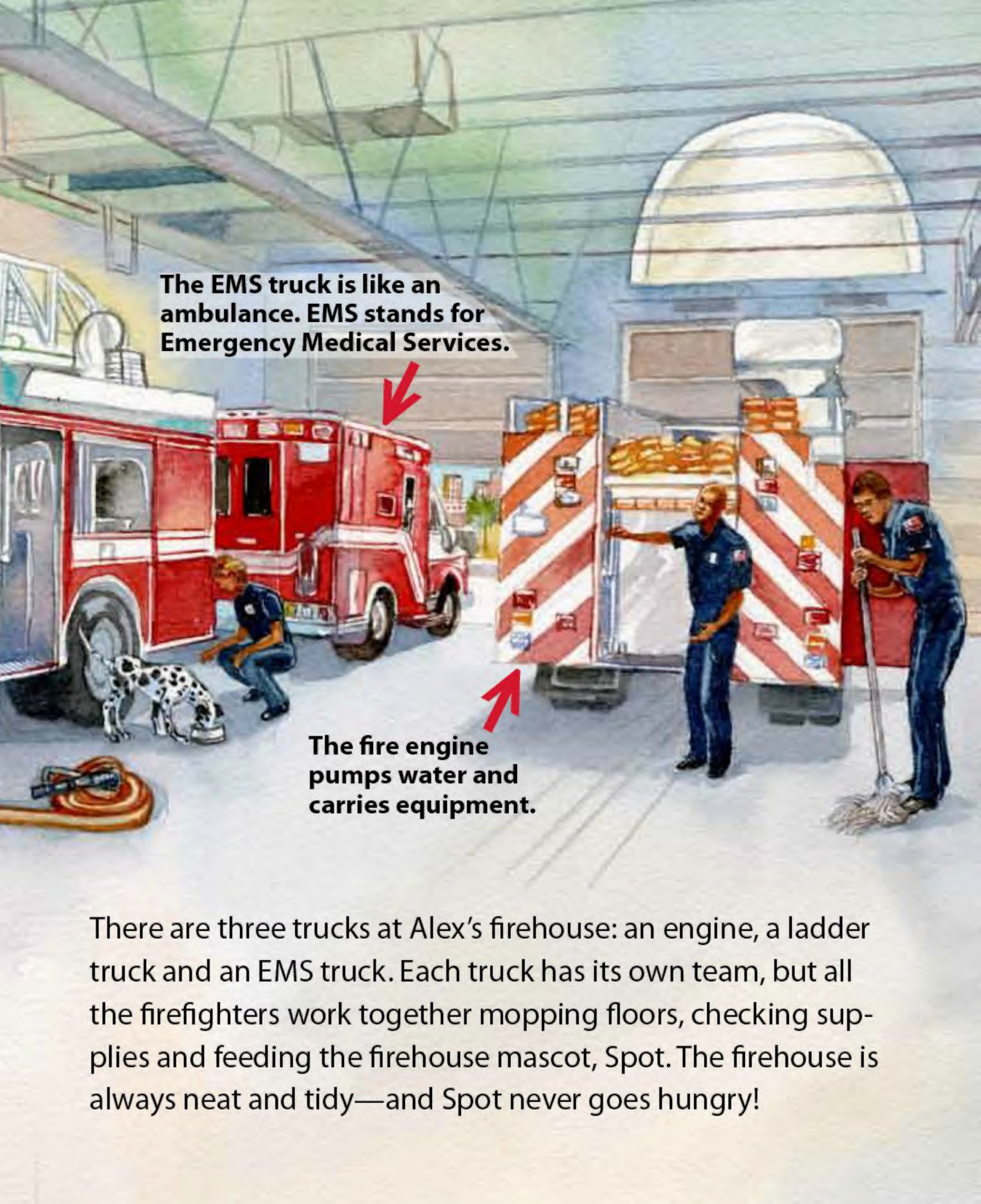
Alex's coat and pants are thick and heavy to protect her from heat. The bright yellow stripes make it easier to see her in dark, smoky spaces. Suspenders hold up her pants. Thick rubber boots grip even wet ground. Leather gloves with thick linings protect her hands from hot objects.





**The ladder on
a ladder truck
reaches several
stories high.**

Firefighters spend a lot of time waiting for emergency calls. While they wait, there's plenty to do around the firehouse. They take care of their equipment and vehicles and make sure everything works the way it's supposed to.



The EMS truck is like an ambulance. EMS stands for Emergency Medical Services.

The fire engine pumps water and carries equipment.

There are three trucks at Alex's firehouse: an engine, a ladder truck and an EMS truck. Each truck has its own team, but all the firefighters work together mopping floors, checking supplies and feeding the firehouse mascot, Spot. The firehouse is always neat and tidy—and Spot never goes hungry!



Once in a while, school kids visit the firehouse. They try on gear and pretend to drive the fire engine. Some children wonder if the fire engine will start to move while they're standing on it!

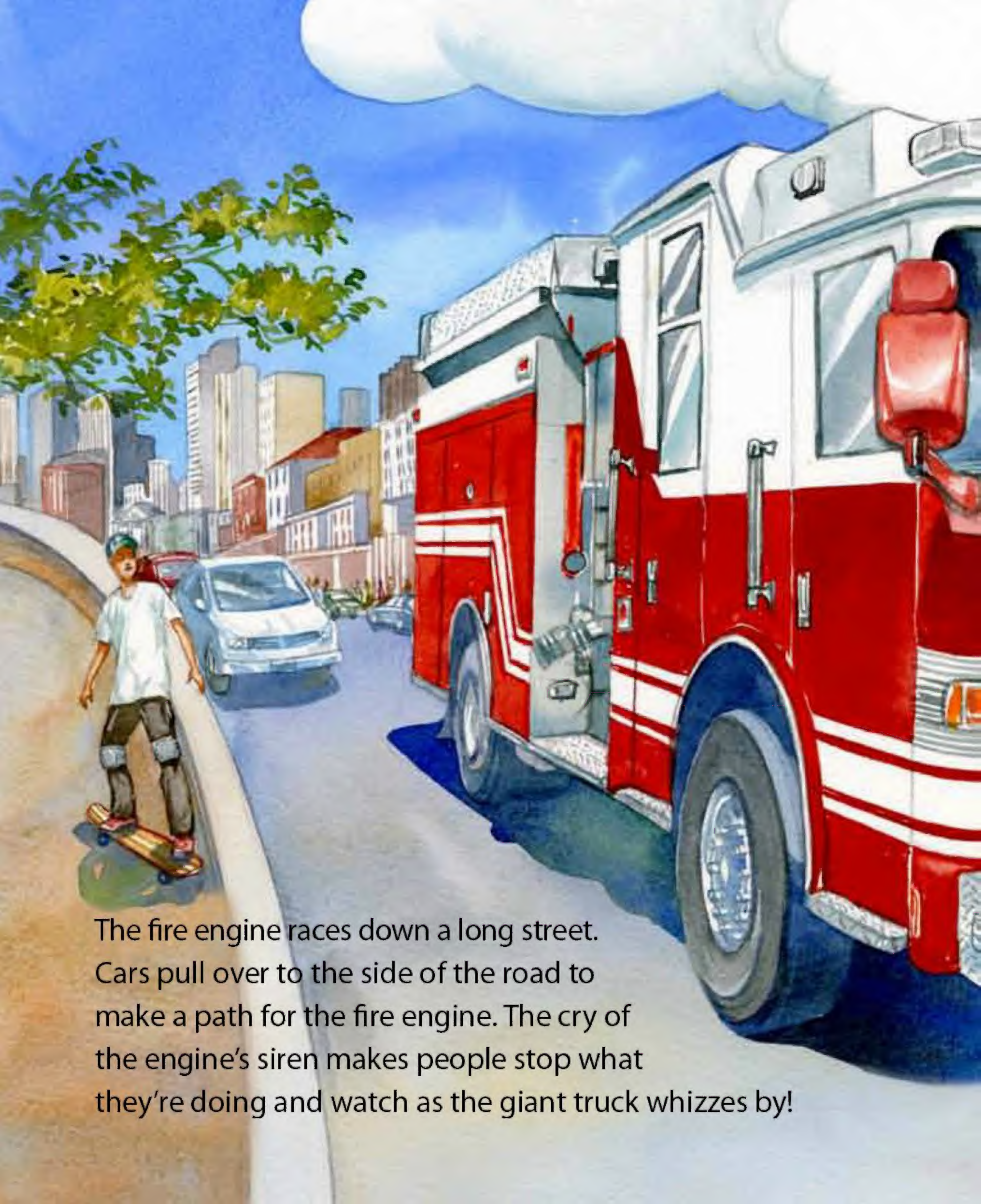
Alex explains that the engine won't move and the sirens won't sound until a call comes into the station.







The firefighters who ride on an engine are called a company. The members of the fire engine company take turns driving the truck, and today Alex is in the driver's seat. When the alarm sounds, Alex takes the wheel! She loves when it's her turn to drive!



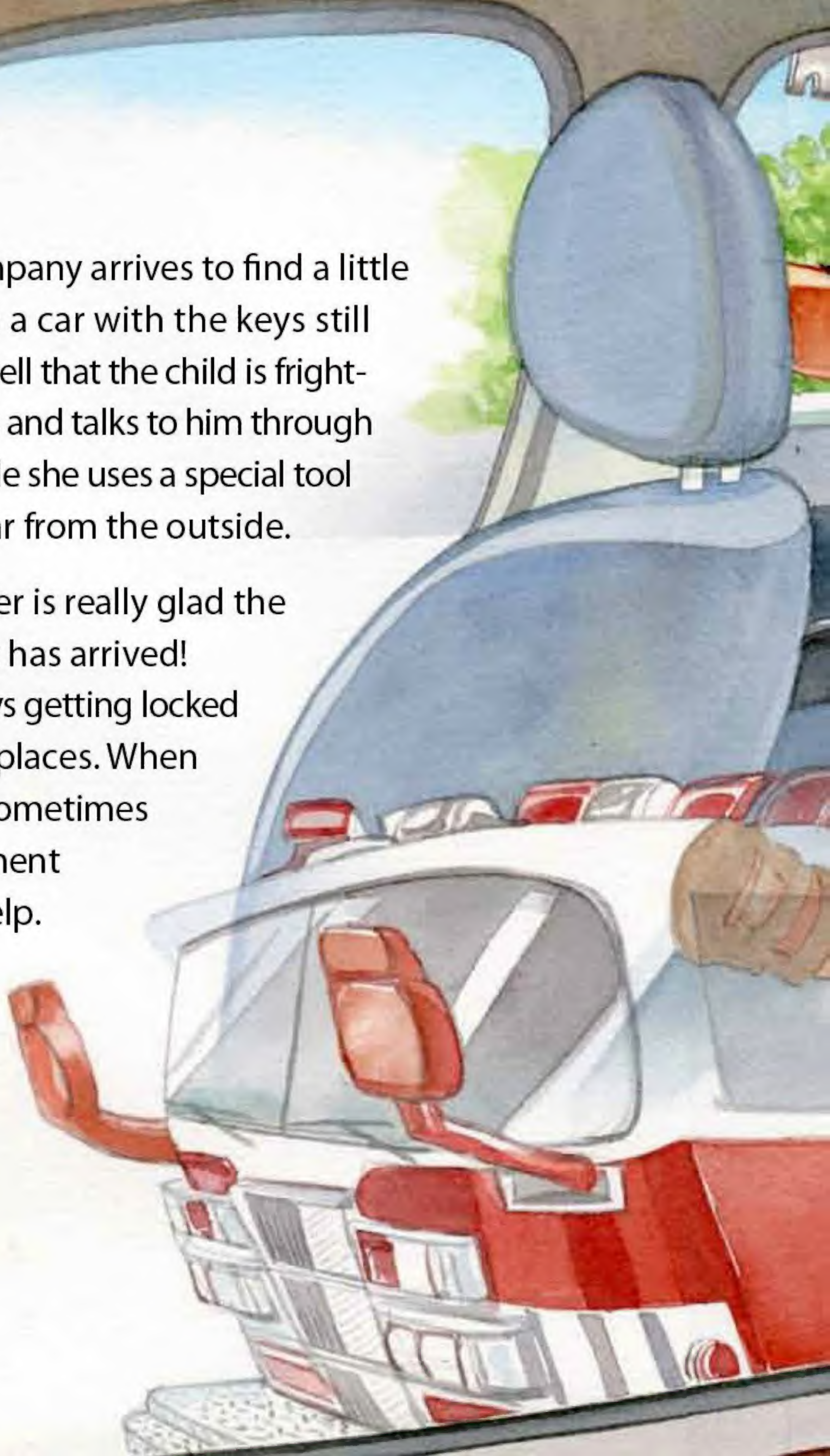
The fire engine races down a long street. Cars pull over to the side of the road to make a path for the fire engine. The cry of the engine's siren makes people stop what they're doing and watch as the giant truck whizzes by!



Alex watches the road carefully. Firefighters work hard to arrive as safely and as fast as possible, no matter what the emergency.

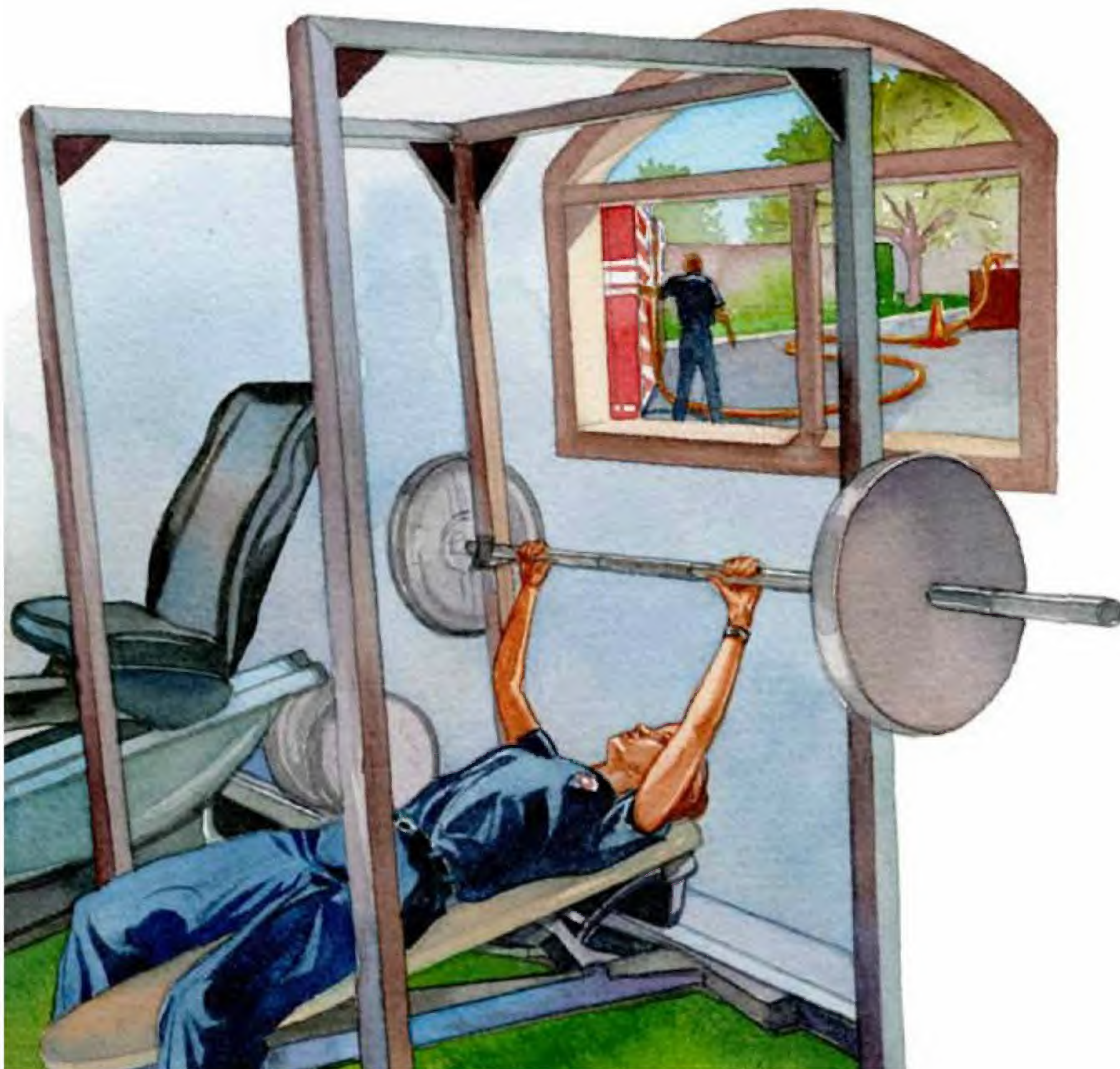
The engine company arrives to find a little boy is locked in a car with the keys still inside. Alex can tell that the child is frightened. She smiles and talks to him through the window while she uses a special tool to unlock the car from the outside.

The boy's mother is really glad the fire department has arrived! People are always getting locked in—or out—of places. When that happens, sometimes the fire department is called in to help.





The engine company returns to the firehouse. The chores are done, and it's time for a break. The firehouse has a gym, and Alex decides to work out. She likes to run and lift weights to stay fit and strong for her job. She makes sure she eats healthy meals.





But soon, the station alarm sounds again! The firefighters drop everything and run for the engine. Alex jumps in the cab of the truck. It's still her day to drive.

This time the engine company finds a house full of smoke. It's coming from the kitchen.





First the firefighters make sure every member of the family is safely outside the house. Then they look around to find out what is causing the smoke. It might be a fire or it might be something else.



In the kitchen, smoke swirls around a microwave oven. Something in the oven is on fire. Alex presses the **off** button but leaves the oven closed. Fires need air. The fire will go out soon if the door of the microwave stays closed, blocking air from getting inside.

The smell and mess from the smoke will be hard to clean up. But no one was hurt. That's the most important thing!



The members of the engine company return to the firehouse tired and dirty. The firehouse has a big bathroom with showers. The firefighters take turns using the showers to wash off the smoke and grime from the fire.

Alex brings an extra uniform to work with her every day. It feels good to put on clean clothes!





There's time for a class before dinner. Alex and her company learn something new every day—or they practice a skill they already know to be ready for real emergencies. Today is rope-training day.

Firefighters don't just put out fires. Sometimes they respond to accidents where someone is trapped or stuck. Alex demonstrates how to tie rope around someone who's fallen down a hillside and pull him to safety.

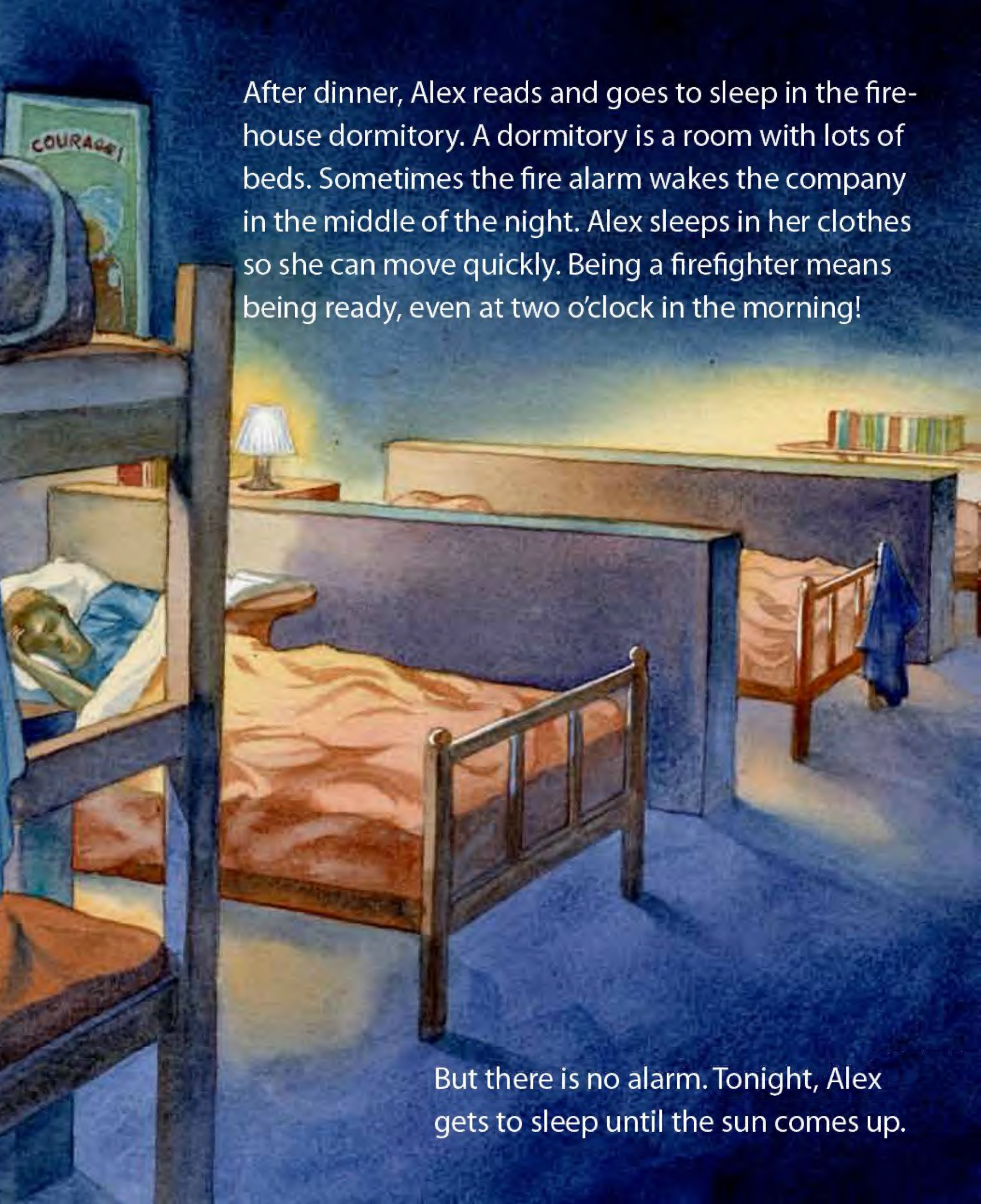
Then it's dinnertime at the firehouse. Everyone helps to prepare the evening meal in the kitchen upstairs. Alex chops lettuce and tomatoes for a salad. Mike stirs his spaghetti sauce. Jose tests the pasta to see if it's cooked. Cate sets the table.



Working at the firehouse is
a lot like being in a family.





An illustration of a firehouse dormitory at night. The room has blue walls and a blue carpet. In the foreground, there are wooden bunk beds. A person is sleeping in the bottom bunk, covered with a blue blanket. Above the bunk beds, a framed picture with the word "COURAGE!" is visible. In the background, there are several single beds with orange blankets. A small table with a lamp is next to one of the beds. A blue jacket is hanging on a chair in the distance. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from the lamp and a window in the background.

After dinner, Alex reads and goes to sleep in the firehouse dormitory. A dormitory is a room with lots of beds. Sometimes the fire alarm wakes the company in the middle of the night. Alex sleeps in her clothes so she can move quickly. Being a firefighter means being ready, even at two o'clock in the morning!

But there is no alarm. Tonight, Alex gets to sleep until the sun comes up.



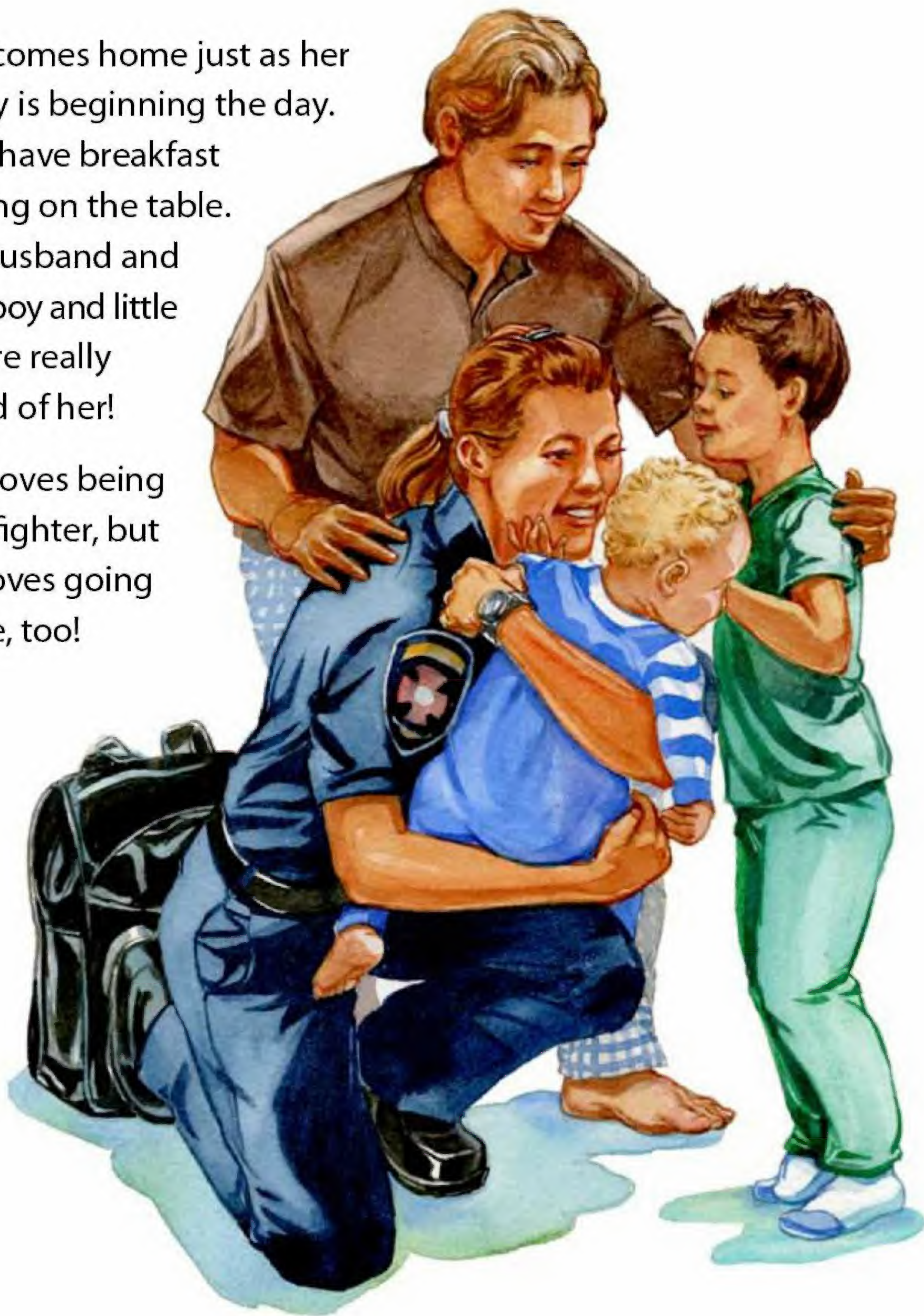


It's been a long day for Alex. Soon she'll go home to see her husband and children. They're used to her strange schedule. After three days, she will return to the firehouse and work another 24-hour shift with the same company of firefighters—who have become like part of her family.

As Alex and her team leave, another group of firefighters arrive to begin their 24-hour shift.

Alex comes home just as her family is beginning the day. They have breakfast waiting on the table. Her husband and little boy and little girl are really proud of her!

Alex loves being a firefighter, but she loves going home, too!





Alex is a firefighter, and she is going to work. For 24 hours—a whole day—she'll live in the firehouse. What does she do there? Come along and find out!



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